

In the global fight against infectious diseases, the lack of public health infrastructure contributes to widespread and needless suffering even when valuable drug treatments are available for use. When Merck made the decision to donate MECTIZAN to treat river blindness, the company understood that while providing the drug for free was necessary, it was not sufficient. They also understood that it was critical to create a reliable, effective distribution system that would ensure MECTIZAN reached the affected millions for as long as necessary.

The lack of public health care infrastructure was a tremendous challenge even though MECTIZAN is an easy to administer oral medication that requires only a single annual dose. To that end, a multisector coalition involving Merck, the World Health Organization; the World Bank; UNICEF; the Carter Center; Ministries of Health of endemic countries; more than thirty non-governmental development organizations, and local community health workers was created. The Merck MECTIZAN Donation Program is now considered by many to be the most important model for public/private partnerships for addressing health care issues in the developing world.

The success and sustainability of the Merck MECTIZAN Donation Program over the past 15 years demonstrates the power and possibilities in strong and creative public/private partnerships to help address the enormous public health challenges facing developing countries today. As a result of the MECTIZAN Donation Program, more than 30 million people are now receiving treatment for river blindness annually. Since the program's inception, Merck has donated more than 700 million MECTIZAN tablets. Access to MECTIZAN has spared millions of children and their families from the risk of infection and the fear of going blind due to river blindness.

Building on the success of the program's fight against river blindness, Merck expanded the program in 1998 to include the donations of MECTIZAN for the prevention of lymphatic filariasis, more commonly known as elephantiasis, in African countries where river blindness and lymphatic filariasis co-exist. It is estimated that 300 million people in Africa are at risk of this disease.

On this, the 15th anniversary of the Merck MECTIZAN Donation Program, I offer praise and gratitude to the many partners who have made life better for millions of people in the developing world.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN KRANOWITZ

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a great friend and outstanding public servant, Alan Kranowitz, who passed away on June 3, 2002, following a long battle with cancer. Alan's loss continues to reverberate throughout the Washington D.C.

area, a testament to the enormous impact he had and the plethora of lasting friendships he made during his 25 years of service as a top advisor to Congressmen and Presidents.

Alan was born and raised in New Britain, CT, and educated at Yale. He first came to Washington in 1965 to serve as executive assistant, and later as chief of staff to my father, Senator THOMAS DODD. By the time Alan left my father's office in 1971, he was one of my father's most valued and trusted aides.

But Alan did not only add knowledge and outstanding political instincts to my father's office. Alan's wit, good nature, and personal appeal made him beloved beyond measure by everyone who was fortunate enough to have known him, or to have worked with him, in my father's Senate office, and beyond.

After 1971, Alan moved easily between top congressional staff positions and key policy positions in the Nixon, Ford, and Reagan administrations. Starting off as Senate liaison for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under President Nixon, Alan soon became the chief lobbyist for the Office of Management and Budget in the Nixon and Ford Administrations.

In the mid-1980s, Alan joined the Reagan White House as a chief legislative advisor and liaison, where his encyclopedic knowledge of policy and his personal ability to bridge differences between Democrats and Republicans made him a key player in shaping the legislative agenda of President Reagan's second term.

Ken Duberstein, President Reagan's Chief of Staff, told *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* that Alan was an invaluable part of Reagan's legislative team; that the White House "relied heavily on [Alan] in determining what was possible and doable" because Alan always offered "absolutely unbiased, straightforward advice."

Aside from working in the White House, in the 1980s, Alan also served as chief of staff to former Representative Tom Loeffler of Texas, and as a senior advisor to House Republican leader Bob Michel.

In 1989, Ronald Reagan appointed Alan as an original council member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

For the past 12 years, Alan served as a senior vice president of the National Association of Wholesalers-Distributors.

I believe that Alan is best remembered in Washington as someone who brought integrity wherever he went, and excelled at whatever he did. In a town where one's political and institutional affiliations often define their career options, Alan moved easily from the Senate to the House, from Congress to the White House, and from Democratic to Republican positions.

That's because it was Alan the man, not Alan the Democrat, or Alan the

Republican, who lit up a room, who brought charm and grace along with him wherever he went, and who touched the hearts of everyone with whom he came in contact.

Alan's was a life cut short, and he will be sorely missed. To Carol, his wife of 35 years, and to his sons, Jeremy and David, and everyone else in Alan's family, I offer my most heartfelt condolences for your loss.

But I came to the floor of the Senate today not simply to mourn a loss, I came to the floor to celebrate a life. The life of Alan Kranowitz was truly a life well-lived. He touched so many and every one of us he touched is a better person because of it.●

#### VANESSA SHORT BULL IS MISS SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I publicly commend Vanessa Short Bull, a resident of Rapid City, South Dakota, on her selection to represent South Dakota in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, NJ.

Vanessa Short Bull's extraordinary dedication to educational excellence, efforts to increase political awareness, prodigious ballet talent, and years of dedicated practice helped her win the title of Miss South Dakota. Vanessa will now be traveling to Atlantic City to compete against other highly talented women from across our nation for the title of Miss America 2002.

Vanessa obtains the honor of being the first American Indian to be crowned Miss South Dakota. She was born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and currently resides in Rapid City. She is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and a direct descendant of several great Lakota leaders. Thomas and Darlene Short Bull are Vanessa's proud parents, and they deserve special recognition for their roles in helping Vanessa obtain this prestigious honor.

"Political Awareness and Participation" is the center of Vanessa's platform. She believes it is important for Americans, especially young people and minorities, to become more involved in the democratic process. She has been actively helping her cause by registering voters and encouraging them to get out and vote. Vanessa will perform the classical ballet piece "The Dying Swan" for the talent portion of the competition. She has danced for more than 15 years and has studied at the School of Cleveland Ballet, Ballet West Conservatory, and the University of Utah.

The Miss America Organization has maintained a tradition of empowering American women to achieve their personal and professional goals, while providing a forum for them to express their opinions, talents, and intelligence. Vanessa exemplifies this tradition, and provides an excellent example for other gifted young women to emulate. All of South Dakota is proud to have her represent our great state.